

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2001

LB 397

their...their last worst offer, in effect, because the parameters narrow what the Commission of Industrial Relations can deal with. They, essentially, can only operate and negotiate, in effect just approve or disapprove what the Special Master did. If you come to the bargaining table with your best offer, your last best offer, then that's the starting point for either the Special Master or the Commission of Industrial Relations. The commission is then limited by statute to only deal with that, so it encourages a bargaining unit, if they think they're going to have a problem, to not negotiate in good faith in advance, to not bring their best offer to the table but, in effect, they bring the very worst. They go to the extreme so that there is more leeway,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...more opportunity for what can be discussed. So what was originally a good concept, and in most instances still is, is no longer that with this particular bargaining unit. In this particular case in going into the negotiations, law enforcement is much more likely to come up with the very worst scenario, the very worst approach, the most expensive approach, and as we're looking at costs and expenses this certainly is a factor there. But they would bring in the offer that would most...that would least likely be accepted by the administration. It would be the most costly of the proposals. And the reason they do that is because that gives them more flexibility and more leeway in order to be able to get what they really want. So...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, a couple comments. One...one of the comments I wanted to talk about was the cost that Senator Preister referred to. The body should know that part of that cost was an actuarial study because we had a retirement issue in that...in that one that he referred to,